James A. Cowgill
Civil War Pension File Abstract

14 December 1891	New Haven, Fayette County	Applies for pension, stating he is 50 years old, residing in New Haven, Fayette County, Pennsylvania; enrolled on 16 August 1861 as a Private in Company G of the 2nd Regiment of the Potomac Home Brigade (PMB) of Maryland, and honorably discharged at Cumberland on 28 September 1864; that he is partially unable to earn support due to rheumatism and kidney afflictions.
09 March 1892	"	Medical examination give his pulse rate as 96, respiration 20, temperature 98.5, height 5 feet 6 ¾ inches, weight 160 pounds, age 50.
15 June 1892	"	James states he suffers from lumbago and heart disease; that his heart disease started "between 1862 and 1864 at or near Cumberland while in the service…lumbago I got about the year 1880 at or near Martinsburg while I was running on the B and O Railroad. And none of my diseases is due to vicious habits of drunkenness".
01 December 1892	"	Applies for a pension "at a higher rate".
20 January 1893	"	Applies for a pension increase; states he enrolled 16 August 1861 in Company G, 2nd regiment of Maryland PHB, and discharged at Cumberland on 28 September 1864; currently 51 years old, 5 feet 5 inches, dark complexion, light hair, gray eyes; that while "at or near Springfield [West Virginia] in February 1862, he incurred rheumatism and disease of heart and catarrh of head and suffered therefrom ever since…that he was treated in hospitals at Cumberland about March 1, 1862 until about July 10, 1862. I do not remember number or names of hospital". His current occupation is stated as a miller, and is partially disabled.
24 January 1893	"	Doctor G.W. Gallagher of New Haven examines James and states he finds "him suffering from valvular disease of the heart and chronic rheumatism. The rheumatism is diffused or general, the most troublesome being that of the lumbar muscles…the patient has been off duty now for more than a week on account of rheumatism…I should rate his disability from following his usual occupation as ¼ or more?.
20 January 1893	"	Affidavit by Hugh Cameron, 63, resident of New Haven, and affidavit by Smith Dawson, 64, resident of New Haven; both state they known James with personal knowledge, and that he has frequently suffered from rheumatism and catarrh in the head, so that he had to lay off from his work at various times, and is partially disabled.

25 April 1894	"	Medical examination states his pulse is 80, respiration 18, temperature 98.6, height 5 feet 7 inches, weight 145 pounds, age 53 years; examination was performed due to James' sufferings from heart disease, rheumatism, and kidney troubles.
18 July 1894	"	Monthly pension is $6.00
13 February 1895	"	Medical examination to review rheumatism, disease of heart, and disease of kidneys; pulse 100, respiration 22, temperature 98, height 5 feet 6 ½ inches, weight 150 pounds, age 54; examination report gives a detailed report of current ailments, and findings.
01 July 1895	"	Questionnaire by the Bureau of Pensions asking for marriage and children information to have on file; states he married Maggie E. Gramlich on 19 June 1882 in Martinsburg by William Gerhart, Minister, and he has a marriage certificate from the ceremony; that he was not previously married; and his children are James A. Cowgill born 04 November 1883, Rebecca M. born 13 May 1886, George B. born 25 October 1887, and Maggie C. born 17 March 1889.
30 January 1900	"	Requesting an increase to his pension. David Carson and Robert M. Smith, both residents of New Haven, certify that they saw James sign his name to the pension increase document.
20 June 1900	"	Medical examination for rheumatism and asthma. Pulse rates 88, 88, 96; respirations 20, 20, 22; temperature 98.6; height 5 feet 6 inches; weight 152 pounds; age 59. Detailed medical report performed by Drs. J.W. Gordon and J.A. Batton.
15 July 1901	"	Requests increase to pension (under Act of May 9, 1900). He also claims additional pension for "piles and asthma in 1897, from working on the B&O RR as flagman caused by exposure". H.B. Boyd and R.M. Smith certify James' signature.
21 August 1901	"	Questionnaire to Andrew Dolan of Twiggtown, Allegany County, asking his knowledge of James; he states he knew him well and was a good soldier; does not remember any wounds James suffered but in their last year he was unwell; he can't remember the nature of James' ailment or how it came about but was unfit for duty under the advice of the regimental surgeon a number of times.
21 August 1901	"	Questionnaire to Samuel J. Brant of Berlin, Somerset County, Pennsylvania; says he knows James; "distinctly" remembers him having the measles near Oldtown near the latter part of 1861 or early 1862 and was sent to the hospital in Cumberland. Samuel visited him during that winter.
21 August 1901	"	Questionnaire to Henry Berwinkel of the Soldiers Home in Marshalltown, Iowa; says he remembers James; said he does not remember James suffering from any ailments.

21 August 1901	"	Questionnaire to Lloyd Mahaney of Uniontown; says he remembers James very well; that he was not wounded; has a "distinct recollection" of him being sick but could not recall the disease.
27 November 1901	"	Medical examination by Drs. W.H. Fetter and M.W. Horner for rheumatism, disease of heart, piles, asthma, catarrh of head, disease of kidneys and lumbago; states James was born in Hampshire County, WV; age 60; height 5 feet 5 ¾ inches; 153 pounds; fair complexion; gray eyes; gray hair; occupation is flagman on the B&O Railroad; pulse rates 80, 88, 94; respiration 22, 22, 22; temperature 98.2; detailed medical report provided.
27 November 1901	"	Monthly pension increased to $8.00.
18 March 1903	"	Files declaration for pension increase for asthma sufferings. John W. Kelley and R.M. Smith witness James' signature on the declaration.
22 April 1903	"	Medical exam regarding his pension increase request. Suffers from rheumatism, disease of heart, piles, asthma, catarrh of head, disease of kidneys and lumbago; born in Hampshire County; age 62; height 5 feet 6 inches; 150 pounds; fair complexion; gray eyes; brown hair; occupation railroader; pulse rates 80, 86, 96; respirations 20, 22, 22; temperature 98.6; detailed reports provided and was taken by J.F. Holbert and J.A. Battor.
23 August 1905	"	Files a declaration for pension increase, now suffering from deafness. Witnesses to this increase application are Charles Cohen of New Haven, and Frank M. Laughin of Leisenring, Fayette County.
27 February 1906	"	Physician's Affidavit of Dr. G.W. Gallagher who states he's known James for 14 years, and has made the following diagnosis: increasing deafness due to disease of internal ear; the heart is also dilated; has asthma, and in doing his manual labor work, the asthma increases; also suffers from muscular rheumatism.
20 June 1906	"	Medical examination by pension board doctors W.H. Fetter, M.W. Horner, and E.P. Weddell, for James' sufferings from rheumatism, disease of heart, piles, naso-pharyngal catarrh, and deafness; born in Hampshire County; age 64; height 5 feet 5 ½ inches; 166 pounds; light complexion; gray eyes; gray hair; occupation flagman on work train on the railroad; pulse rates 80, 84, 86; respirations 30, 32, 32; temperature 98.2; detailed report of exam provided.
31 July 1906	"	Declaration for an increase to pension; this document is the first in his file to state his date of birth: 19 September 1841. Witnesses to the application of increase were J.H. Thompson, and W.J. Layburu (?), both of New Haven.

13 February 1907	"	Declaration for an increase in pension; states he is 65 years old, resident of New Haven; enrolled at Cumberland on 16 August 1861 as a private in the 2nd regiment of the PHB Maryland volunteers, and honorably discharged at Cumberland 28 September 1864; that he is 5 feet 6 inches; dark complexion; gray eyes; light hair; occupation miller; born 19 September 1841 in Hampshire County, West Virginia; witnesses were J.H. Thompson and W. H. White, both of New Haven who stated they've known him for 15 and 20 years, respectively.
13 February 1907	"	Pension increased to $12 per month. [this increase was allowed because he was now over 62 years of age which permitted a monthly pension of $12]
19 September 1911	Connellsville	Declaration for an increase in pension; states he is 70 years old; residence of Connellsville [all previous residences were New Haven; this signifies his move to Connellsville]; enrolled at Cumberland on 16 August 1861 as a private in Company G, 2nd regiment of the PHB Maryland volunteers, and honorably discharged at Cumberland on 28 September 1864; that he is 5 feet 6 inches; dark complexion; gray eyes; light hair; occupation is miller; born 19 September 1841 in Hampshire County, Virginia; that since leaving the service he has lived in the following places: Berkeley, WV to June 1884, and the remainder of time in Fayette County. Witnesses to the declaration were Charles H. Baleley and David McDiffett, both of Connellsville. Note – this declaration was made on his 70th birthday which allowed pensioners to now receive $15 per month.
20 September 1911	"	Pension increased to $15 per month.
21 May 1912	"	Declaration for an increase in pension; states he is 70 years old; resident of Connellsville; enrollment dates and locations same as the previous; that he is 5 feet 6 inches; dark complexion; gray eyes; light hair; miller by occupation; born 19 September 1841 in Hampshire County, Virginia; since leaving the service his residences have been 20 years in Berkeley County, West Virginia, and the remainder of the time in Fayette County. Note – this declaration was made as a new law pass that pensioners could not receive $25 per month at age 70.
22 May 1912	"	Pension increased to $25 per month.
26 November 1915	106 Fourth Street Connellsville	Questionnaire sent to pensioners; this is the first document to list a street address for James (106 Fourth Street, Connellsville); he was born 19 September 1841 in Hampshire County; served in the 2nd Maryland volunteer infantry company G; his nearest

		post office at time of enlistment was Mount Savage, Allegany County; that his wife's maiden name is Margaret Gramlich; married 19 June 1882 by Rev. Gearhart in Martinsburg; that the record of the marriage is with a certificate of marriage; that he was not previously married; that his wife was not previously married; that his wife is still living' that their children are James A. Cowgill, born 04 November 1883; Rebecca M. born 13 May 1886; George G. born 25 October 1887; and Maggie A. born 17 March 1889, and that all children were still living.
20 September 1916	Connellsville	Declaration for pension increase; that he is 75 years old; living in Connellsville; dates and places of service consistent with previous statements; he is 5 feet 6 inches; dark complexion; gray eyes; light hair; miller by occupation; born 19 September 1841 in Hampshire County, Virginia; that his residences since leaving the war were, after discharge in 1864 came to West Brownsville, Washington County, Pennsylvania for 3 months, then went to Martinsburg for 20 years, came to Connellsville in 1884 and have lived here since; that his address is 106 South Fourth Street, Connellsville.
20 September 1916	Connellsville	Pension increased to $30 per month (now that he was 75)
18 March 1918	Connellsville	Declaration for a Widow's Pension filled out by Margaret; that she is 68 years old; born 25 July 1849 in Cumberland; is the widow of James A. Cowgill; married 19 June 1882 by William Gerhart in Martinsburg; that she was not previously married, nor remarried since her husband's death. Witnesses to Margaret's application were Agnes Spence and Mary Dixon, both of Connellsville.
25 May 1918	West Newton, Pennsylvania	Affidavit by James' brother David (listed as D.E.Cowgill in the record) that he is 70 years old; living on RD #2, Box 170-A, West Newton, Pennsylvania; and declares he has known James up through his death, and that he was never married to anyone else aside from his wife; that he was a brother to James, and confirms his death as he attended the funeral on 04 March 1918.
05 June 1918	Cumberland, Maryland	Letter from Charles H. Wolford, justice of the peace, to the pension office that Margaret in her younger days was sometimes called Maggie but her Christian name is Margaret.
05 June 1918	Cumberland, Maryland	Letter signed by Ellen Bradley [X mark] and Virginia Ogle, ages 68 and 65, respectively, both of Cumberland, testify they have known Margaret since childhood and lived on the same street and grew up together, attended parties together, and each swears under oath Margaret was not previously married nor married since James' death.

07 June 1918	Cumberland, Maryland	Letter signed by John A. Doerner, medical doctor, living in Cumberland and a doctor for the B&O Railroad, age 61, states he was personally acquainted with James A. Cowgill and that he was not married previous to Margaret.
27 June 1918	Martinsburg, West Virginia	Court Clerk provides a certified copy of James and Margaret's marriage on 20 June 1882 in Berkeley County; his name James A. Cowgill, her name Maggie E. Gramlich; he was 41, she was 33; he was born in Hampshire County, she was born in Allegany County, and they both resided in Berkeley County; his parent's were Valentine & Rebecca Cowgill; her parents were Martin and Elizabeth Gramlich; and his occupation was a railroader.
20 June 1918	Connellsville	Affidavit by Jr. J. French Kerr, who is a practicing physician in Connellsville, states he was the attending physician at James' death which occurred 28 February 1918.
22 June 1918	Connellsville	Letter by Charles L. Kearns, 60, residing at 128 North 1st Street, Connellsville, swore on oath that he knew James for the last 40 years and that he was not married other than to his wife. Charles further states he came to Connellsville in 1879 and James came to Connellsville shortly around the same time and they have been neighbors and friends all these 40 years; and that he worked with him on the B&O Railroad in Martinsburg.
22 June 1918	Connellsville	Letter by Elizabeth Dawson, 62, living at 159 West 2nd Street, Connellsville, states she has known Margaret and James for the past 31 years and were man and wife all those years; that neither was married otherwise. [Note – though not stated in this affidavit, Elizabeth was James' sister]
24 June 1918	Connellsville	Letter by Margaret herself, 68 and living at 106 South 4th Street, stating to the effect on her marriage license, it says her name was Maggie E. Gramlich to which she states she does not remember why she was given that name, just that "in those days they called me Maggie for a short name. Would say under oath that Margaret is my correct and right name".
13 January 1919	Connellsville	Certificate of pension given to Margaret and pensioned at the rate of $25 per month.
04 April 1921	Connellsville	Margaret's pension was noted at $90 per month (due to changing laws); and also that she was now dropped from the pension rolls due to her death.
04 April 1921	Connellsville	Letter to the pension office by Margaret's daughter Rebecca, 106 South 4th Street, that she is returning her mother's pension check which just came in the mail as her mother just recently died on 19 March 1921.
05 May 1921	Connellsville	Letter to the pension office by Rebecca asking if any pension due her mother was still allowable to be paid.
25 June	Connellsville	Application for Reimbursement form filled out by Rebecca; that her mothers name was Margaret E. Cowgill, formerly Margaret

1921		E. Gramlich, and died 19 March 1921; that the pensioner left an unendorsed pension check; cause of death was hardening of the arteries; that Margaret was pensioned from December 1919 until her death; that Dr. J. French Kerr was Margaret's attending physician; that persons whom nursed Margaret during her final sickness were Rebecca Cowgill, Alice Irwin, and Anna Fleslier; that Margaret died 19 March 1921 in Connellsville and was burn in St. Joseph's Cemetery in Connellsville; the reimbursement request is $330.80 ($16 for the doctor; $49.30 for medicine; $245.50 for the undertaker Charles C. Mitchell; $10.00 to Louis McKeeny for cemetery charged; and $10.00 to John T. Burns for the funeral mass; that the final expenses ($330.80) were all paid for by George Cowgill (James & Margaret's son).
17 August 1921	Connellsville	George was authorized for a reimbursement of $295.55 for Margaret's final expenses. George's address is noted as 106 South 4th Street, Connellsville. This reimbursement papers also include itemized statements for service rendered by Dr. J. French Kerr, J.C. Moore, druggist, and Charles C. Mitchell, funeral director; also included is a copy of a check on George's bank account for $10 grave digging which was paid to the church, and the church provided a receipt.
-	-	[End of the pension file]